

## The Book of ACTS

### Introduction

1. Title: Acts of the Apostles or Acts of Jesus Christ? [1:1]

**Luke** = all that Jesus *began* both to do and teach [pre-Ascension – “until the day he was taken up” – 1:12]

**Acts** = all that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to both do and teach [post-Ascension]

2. Theme: Jesus Christ’s establishment, evangelistic effort and edification of His church.
3. Authorship [1:2] – Christ -> Holy Spirit -> Apostles [Discuss Canonicity – Apostolic Authority]

Luke the physician

Further Study: Applications of Christ’s Unique Recorded Deeds & Teachings in ACTS to your Life.

[Red Letter Edition: Acts 1, 9, 11, 18, 20:35, 22, 23, 26]

All 27 New Testament books have “Apostolic Authority”

4. Purpose of Course: Major on the majors and minor on the minors
5. The Key to the Interpretation of Acts is to recognize it as a History of the early Church in *Transition*. Acts is a Narrative, not a Norm.
6. Goal of the Study of ACTS: Studying Key words, concepts, or phrases that drive us to further personal Bible Study.

### ***Motivational Lessons from ACTS 1*** ***[3 Key Little Words: *Began, Both, Same*]***

1. Whereas Luke BEGAN recording Jesus’s Deeds and Teachings in his Gospel. Acts is the Sequel, the Continuation of all Christ’s deeds and teaching. [1:1]

#### DEEDS and TEACHING

- a. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most strongly documented Miracle of History [1:3]
- b. Like us, the early Apostles had to learn Patience in God. [1:4]
- c. The Ascension is much more than just a Resurrection afterthought.

#### ***Ascension: Five Key Benefits***

- (1) It establishes Jesus as the reigning King over all powers in all ages. [Eph. 1:20-21; 2:6-7]
- (2) It gives us access to God’s throne for mercy and grace. [Heb. 4:14-16]
- (3) It provides an Advocate on earth whose presence is limitless. [John 14:12, 16-17; 16:7]
- (4) It gives us the benefits of Christ’s victory: gifted leaders and spiritual gifts. [Eph. 4:7-12]
- (5) It motivates us daily to eagerly anticipate His return. [Acts 1:11; Rev. 22:7, 20-21]

## ACTS 1 [H]

d. Christ reminded believers that there are many things that are “not for you to know.” [1:7]

*[Does it bother you that we may never know many things for all Eternity [We will never be Omniscient]?*

2. We are challenged to maintain BOTH sides of a Paradox and Adore the Mind of God. [1:8]

1:8 – *Both* [Peter’s struggle believing Salvation for BOTH Jews AND Gentiles]

Acts 10; 11:1 – “apostles heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God”

Hypostatic Union, Inspiration, Sovereignty and Free Will

3. The Ascension Teaching is that the SAME Man [Jesus Christ] will come in the SAME Manner [in the Clouds] – Acts 1:11

Heb. 2:17 – “like unto his brethren”

*Eph. 4:10 – “He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things,*

**Heb. 13:8 – “Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today, and for ever”**

**Yesterday:** Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection

**Today:** Intercession [1 Tim. 2:5 – “One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” - Isa. 53:12; Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:1; 7:25-26]

**Forever:** Rules and Reigns [For the Father judgeth no man - John 5:22-27; Rev. 11:15] and only visible representation of God [Col. 2:9]

Acts 17:30-31 – “(God) hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness **by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**”

Rev. 11:15 – “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

Phil. 2:9-11 – “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Col. 2:9 – “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”**

***What Names were given to the 2nd person of the Deity Before the Incarnation?***

***What Names were given to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Deity Beginning at the Incarnation?***